

SENATE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION  
EXHIBIT NO. 2  
DATE: 2-10-15  
BILL NO. HB 132

House Bill No. 241  
Highway and Transportation  
Written Statement  
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Tuesday – February 10, 2015

I am submitting a written statement as an informational witness only to the committee regarding private contractors that works with the State and Federal Agencies in Montana regarding fire suppression under Best Value Contracting that affect interstate and intrastate requirements.

My statement regarding the proposed bill needs to address Montana private contractors who have a contract with State and Federal Agencies in Montana to provided equipment like water tenders, wildland engines, heavy equipment that haul skidders, dozers, logging equipment etc on transports, that are required to have the proper drivers license, endorsements and permits, etc to operate on public highways and county roads as outlined in their contract.

The issues were addressed by the internal legislative committee approximately four years ago under the report "The Price of Flame" Those in private sector are not subject to the same standards that under the Montana Fire Service for Montana regarding rural fire districts and fire service areas, volunteer fire companies that may contract with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) with local government resources.

The private industry continues to work with the State and Federal agencies on the issues and realized we need to separate local government and the private sector because of state and federal laws.

The concerns I wish to put on record in the hearing on this bill for the committee and the sponsor are those in the private sector are subject to:

- DOT Audits of the company
- Drive Time Regulations
- Log Book Requirements
- DOT Drug and Alcohol Regulations and Commercial Drive License Requirements
- DOT Hazard Materials Regulations
- Liability Insurance Requirements

I would ask the committee and the sponsor of the bill to evaluate the impact to the private sector regarding the exemption for local governments, but does not apply to those in the private sector that would not be exempt under HB No. 241

Richard E. Grady